

## Employment E-Brief No 29

For further  
information contact:

### Disability Discrimination (Blind & Partially Sighted People) Regulations 2003

Judith Ellery

The above Regulations have been laid before Parliament this week.

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They provide that anybody who is blind or partially sighted (either certified as such by a consultant Ophthalmologist, or registered as such with the local authority) is deemed to be disabled within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Such individuals do not therefore have to establish that being partially sighted has a substantial adverse effect on their day to day activities. They will automatically be covered by the Disability Discrimination Act.

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We still await the text of the statutory instrument.

While before it was always good practice to assume that blind or partially sighted people were disabled for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act, it will now be essential to do so.

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